

experiments. Much of their research data had already been relayed to Houston where it has added to the pool of scientific knowledge.

In the 108th Congress, I introduce legislation (H.R. 525) that would have authorized the issuance of Congressional Gold Medals to commemorate our fallen heroes on the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Three hundred eighteen of my colleagues in the House of Representatives joined me in the co-sponsorship of that legislation. Nevertheless, the bill never made it to a vote.

I have reintroduced the bill in the 109th Congress (H.R. 258) authorizing the coinage of a Gold Medal to pay proper tribute to our astronauts. Unfortunately, untimely and ill conceived legislation (H.R. 54) also before the 109th Congress which purports to "provide reasonable standards for congressional gold medals" essentially limits the bestowal of this honor to American icons. One of the main reasons that the medal is bestowed is to make the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. H.R. 54 will summarily restrict this goal and prevent many honored heroes from receiving proper recognition. Provisions in H.R. 54 will specifically exclude the award of Congressional Gold Medals to the *Columbia* astronauts.

I hope that my colleagues in this esteemed body will join me in helping to pass legislation that will properly honor our *Columbia* heroes. I also ask my colleagues to help ensure that those deserving can be recognized by Congress through the issuance of Gold Medals.

The tragedy that occurred two years ago serves as a wake-up call for a new look at spacecraft safety. NASA has made good progress identifying the causes of the *Columbia* crash and is designing approaches for the Shuttles' return to flight. I have called for detailed safety analyses of the International Space Station (ISS) and hope that my colleagues will work with me in developing legislation that will authorize a safety audit of the ISS that will address the same level of detail addressed by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

#### GREENSBORO FOUR INSPIRED NONVIOLENT PROTESTS AGAINST RACIAL SEGREGATION ACROSS THE SOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) in rising tonight to remember an act of courage and conscience 45 years ago today that forever changed North Carolina, the South, and our Nation.

On February 1, 1960, four African American students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina A&T, walked into the F. W. Woolworth store in downtown Greensboro and sat down at the "whites" only lunch counter. They were refused service, but they continued to sit at the lunch counter in non-violent protest.

The courageous nonviolent protests of the four A&T freshmen, Jibrel

Khazan, then Ezell Blair, Jr.; David Richmond; Joseph McNeil; and Franklin McCain, the Greensboro Four, inspired sit-ins across North Carolina and the South to protest racial segregation in public accommodations and in every other area of life.

□ 2000

The sit-in movement became a critical part of the civil rights movements and led eventually to the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the integration of public accommodations in America.

Today, I attended a celebration in Greensboro marking the 45th anniversary of the beginning of the sit-in movement. In July, the Woolworth's store in downtown Greensboro, hallowed ground to the civil rights movement, will open as an international civil rights museum.

Mr. Speaker, we no longer have whites-only lunch counters. Ending segregation has made our Nation a more decent and just society, but there remains much work to be done to achieve racial justice. There remain disparities in almost every aspect of life. And the courage and conscience of the Greensboro Four remains an inspiration for all Americans to recognize injustice, to refuse to accept injustice, to act against injustice.

#### HONORING LANCE CORPORAL ADOLFO LOPEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of United States Marine Lance Corporal Adolfo Lopez.

On Thursday, November 18, 2004, Lance Corporal Lopez, a member of Battery T Unit, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, died at the young age of 19.

Mr. Lopez was killed in tragic rollover accident near Tucson, Arizona, while traveling home to Laredo, Texas, from a California military base.

Mr. Lopez, also known as Buffy, was coming home to Laredo to spend the holidays with his family before being deployed to Iraq. Although he did not make it to the battlefield, Adolfo was proud to be called a Marine.

Mr. Lopez, a 2003 graduate of J.B. Alexander High School, was described by his high school senior counselor as dedicated, disciplined and goal oriented. She said one of Adolfo's greatest moments was when he was informed that he had been accepted to the United States Marines.

While in the United States Marines, Adolfo received the National Service Defense Medal. According to Jose Antonio Lopez, his brother's goal was to become a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

One of Adolfo's high school teachers, Mrs. Cecilia Santos, recalls letters and

e-mail Adolfo sent her from boot camp in which he would mention how hard it was being away from his home, his family and his friends. Nevertheless, the growth in character he was experiencing was evident in his letters. Mrs. Santos noted in a letter that Buffy was fast becoming a man, a man of great moral fiber who was a role model to our youth.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in Laredo, Texas, I ask this great body to join me in sending our most heartfelt condolences to the family of Lance Corporal Adolfo Lopez.

May God watch over his parents, Daniel and Mercedes Lopez, and his brothers and sisters, Daniel, Jose, Herminia, Christian, David, Dennise, and Eddie Lopez.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SANDERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### OMNIBUS NONPROLIFERATION AND ANTI-NUCLEAR TERRORISM ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, early on the morning of October 11, 2001, as lower Manhattan still lay smoldering, President Bush was told by George Tenet, the Director of Central Intelligence, that a CIA agent was reporting that al Qaeda terrorists armed with a stolen Russian nuclear weapon were loose in New York City.

The threat was not made public for fear it would cause mass panic, but it precipitated an evacuation of hundreds of senior U.S. Government officials, including Vice-President CHENEY, to a series of undisclosed locations away from the capital. Nuclear Emergency Search Teams were dispatched to New York to look for the weapon, reportedly a 10 kiloton warhead that could have killed at least 100,000 people if it were detonated in Manhattan.

Thankfully, the CIA report turned out to be untrue, but the danger we face from nuclear terrorism is all too real. Osama bin Laden has termed the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction "a religious duty," while his press spokesman has announced that al Qaeda aspires to kill 4 million Americans, including 1 million children.

President Bush has deemed a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States